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## Congress of the United States

#### House of Representatives

Mashington, D.C. 20515

March 1, 1982

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIR

CHAIRMAN,
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA

MEMBER, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE TASK FORCE

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The Honorable William J. Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I would like to again invite your nominations for upcoming Congressional Excalibur Award presentations to honor excellence in public service.

Award ceremonies will take place on Capitol Hill in May and September of this year to cite outstanding federal workers in 1982 and to recognize their special achievements in serving their country and their fellow citizens.

At the fifth presentation of the Excalibur Award in December, I was pleased to honor not one but three exceptional Federal employees: Robert Kyler of Philadelphia, Commissioner of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS); John MacPhee of Washington, D.C., the U.S. Postal Service's National Manager of the "Program for Alcoholic Recovery"; and NASA Aeronautical Engineer Robert T. Jones of Santa Clara, California. Past Excalibur winners have represented the Environmental Protection Agency, the Veterans Administration, the Air Force and NASA.

In my home district just outside the nation's capital and as Chairman of the Federal Government Service Task Force, I am well acquainted with other hard-working, dedicated and creative individuals who are highly productive and cost-conscious.

I urge you to join me in telling their story to the American people in order to encourage leadership, initiative, efficiency, and over-all achievement in government service.

The Honorable William J. Casey Page 2 March 1, 1982

Together, we can focus on the positive aspects of good government in order to counter the negative image of "bureaucracy" and to attract talented people into meaningful public service.

I look forward to hearing from you about future Excalibur Award candidates. Nominations for the May award should be received by April 2 in my office, 401 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. I am enclosing a fact sheet for further information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Michael D. Barnes

MDB/mb

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# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE TASK FORCE

#### EXCALIBUR AWARD

#### FACT SHEET

Congressman Michael D. Barnes (D-8-Md.), chairman of the Federal Government Service Task Force, initiated the Excalibur Award in 1979. The award -- unique to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate -- has so far been awarded on five occasions.

#### WHAT ARE ITS OBJECTIVES?

- \* To recognize and honor outstanding contributions made by federal civilian and military personnel
- \* To encourage initiative and excellence in performance by government employees
- \* To publicize such achievements and enhance public appreciation of the merit and performance of government employees, helping to counter the negative image sometimes associated with government service
- To help attract talented persons to the federal service

#### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF NOMINEES?

On a regular basis, candidates for the Excalibur Award are sought who exemplify:

- \* Outstanding efforts or leadership in solving problems at local, national, or international levels
- \* Exceptional scientific, technical, or administrative achievements
- \* Superior service to the public, such as the improvement of efficiency including simplification of government regulations
- \* Ability to overcome obstacles to organizational objectives, such as making substantial savings in expenditures
- \* High personal integrity, moral character and courage in dealing with

EXCALIBUR AWARD

PAGE 2

FACT SHEET

difficult or sensitive problems

\* Unusual degree of imagination and initiative involved in a specific achievement impacting on the agency and the public

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND HOW ARE NOMINATIONS MADE?

All federal career civilian and military employees are eligible. Normally, each award goes to one individual, but a small team of persons who have worked jointly on a project may also be considered.

Nominations are invited on a continuing basis from heads and other officials of federal departments and agencies, from other organizations and from the general public.

Nominations summarizing the individual's achievement should not exceed one page in length. Interested persons should advise Rep. Michael D. Barnes, Room 401 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202-225-5341) of their nominees.

## WHO WILL SELECT THE AWARD RECIPIENT?

Final selections are made by an impartial committee, appointed by Rep. Barnes, composed of eight distinguished citizens drawn from a wide variety of professions and experiences. The Chairman of the Excalibur Award Selection Committee is Mr. Harry McPherson, attorney and former White House Counsel to President Lyndon Johnson. Other Selection Committee members include: Hon. Joseph D. Tydings, attorney and former U.S. Senator from Maryland; Mr. Nicholas Nolan, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employees; Dr. Estelle Ramey, professor of Physiology and Biochemistry at Georgetown University and selected to the President's Advisory Commission on Women; Mr. John Heller, Assistant to the Comptroller General of the United States; Mr. Robert R. Nathan, economic consultant; Mr. Gary Hymel, Gray & Co.; Mr. Chris Matthews, Assistant to House Speaker Tip O'Neill; and Dr. Douglas Labier, psychoanalyst and researcher for the Washington-based Project on Technology, Work and Character.

### HOW IS THE AWARD GIVEN?

The award is granted periodically in the form of a plaque and an honorary citation. It is presented by Rep. Barnes at a ceremony held at the U.S. Capitol, in the presence of other members of Congress, officials of the executive branch, members of the Excalibur Award Selection Committee, and representatives of the media.

February 1982

